CSE-1402 Practical Session #7 - A Software Product User Manual in LaTeX

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Abstract

Prac Session Objectives: The student will further consolidate experience gained with using a LaTeX template, learn several new commands, and will produce a user manual for a software tool, developed for viewing LaTeX format files.

1 Reading Material (No Marks)

If you did not do so for the previous three pracs, download a copy of Tobias Oetiker's excellent LaTeX tutorial which is posted at:

`http://www.tug.org/begin.html#tutorials`

Please revise Chapter 1 through to Chapter 2, as you will find this useful for this practical session and also helpful for coming lectures.

Please read through the skeleton file `template.tex` and look up the LaTeX markup commands used in this file within the LaTeX tutorial document and your lecture notes, especially list environments.

2 Preparation Tasks (1 Mark)

This practical session will involve further use of LaTeX, but also incorporates some further practice in the use of `vi` and RCS. Assume the software tool you wrote a specification for last week has been altered to view LaTeX instead. You will now prepare a user manual for LaTeX format file viewer. Assume the tool has all of the relevant features which you defined in the specification you prepared in the preceding Prac. This practical session demonstrates the importance of carefully writing specifications, in practice you will need to use them in the production of other documents.

A feature you will incorporate into the viewer is the ability to view the formatted (compiled) LaTeX, as well as the LaTeX source. The viewer should include the ability to 'highlight' LaTeX commands in different colours. The viewer will support the following 'highlight' colours:

- All generalised markup commands in shades of red.
- All layout markup commands in shades of green.
- All font change markup commands in shades of light green.
- All document content in black.
- Background in white.

- All begin and end statements in yellow.

You can assume the readers of the manual are novices and may not understand what LaTeX format files are used for, and do not understand LaTeX syntax. This needs to be explained briefly. Make sure that the descriptions are simple and concise, and do not confuse the reader (assume the reader is a Year 11 student).

1. Using `gvim` or `vi`, produce a 1,400 word user manual for a viewer which can display LaTeX format files.
2. The body of the manual will describe the operating modes and features of the viewing tool. The skeleton file for this document does not reflect the required structure of the document, but contains some hints.
3. This document will be the basis of your assessed work in the **Lab Work**, therefore it is essential that you do this work thoroughly.
4. Students with LaTeX installed on their home systems are encouraged to attempt a compile under `WinShell`.

3 Lab Work Tasks

1. The **Lab Work Tasks** for Prac #7 will rely on the practice and notes you produce working through the **Preparation Tasks**. Therefore the more effort you put into the preparation, the better the grade you can produce in the **Lab Work Tasks**.
2. Details of the **Lab Work Tasks** will be made available before the Prac, in electronic form.
3. Please show your tutor the work you did to complete the **Preparation Tasks**.